



Ladies and gentlemen,

NoPerks Theatre, an international company based in New York and Switzerland, presents to you an English-language stage adaptation of "Diary of a Madman," featuring live music. We are particularly honored to perform our version of Nikolai Gogol's comedic and sorrowful short story here in St. Petersburg, the city where the story takes place and the city where Gogol resided while composing many of his masterpieces. We kindly invite you the performances, which will be held at the Pokolenyi Theatre on February 21 and 22, both beginning at 8pm.

Our adaptation of "Diary of a Madman" premiered in New York in 2012 and has traveled to Portland, Oregon (USA), Biel and Zurich, Switzerland and to the Edinburg Festival Fringe. In bringing our performance to its place of literary origin we hope you will experience Gogol's tale of suffering and absurdity in ways both familiar and new.

Especially in complex times like these the cultural exchange needs to be happening and can make a significant difference. That's why as an international theatre company we very strongly feel the need to collaborate with such great artists and directors like the ones from the Theater Pokoleniy.

With humility and delight, we hope to see you at the theatre to share that moment with us!

The NoPerks Theatre ensemble:

Miro Caltagirone - actor

Miro Caltagirone graduated from a two-year program at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York, where he lived from 2009 to 2012. In addition to acting, Miro Caltagirone works as the lead singer of the musical projects Troika Trash, Le Onde del Cielo and Puts Marie, with whom he has recorded several albums and toured internationally for over a decade. Puts Marie just won the Cultural Music Prize of the city of Biel, Switzerland, as well as the Recognition Prize of the canton of Bern, Switzerland. In "Diary of a Madman," he plays Poprishchin, a 19th-Century Russian clerk who slowly grows insane as he toils away at bureaucratic tasks, feeling increasingly insignificant. Miro Caltagirone channels Poprishchin with such conviction that it can break one's heart.

Samuel Weber - musician

Samuel Weber sings and plays double bass, electric bass, saxophone, trombone, piano, accordion and guitar in several bands, including Puts Marie, Le Onde del Cielo and Troika Trash. In addition to working as a musician, he writes stories and films, draws and produces Swiss alpine cheese during the summer months. This year with Puts Marie, he won the

Cultural Music Prize of the city of Biel as well as the Recognition Prize of the canton of Bern. He recently became a father.

Luca Ramella - musician

Luca Ramella studied at the Jazz School of Lucerne, in Switzerland. He's a composer, a musical theatre performer as well as a member of musical projects such as Palko!Muski, Troika Trash and Le Onde del Cielo. Luca Ramella teaches at the Conservatory of Music in Zürich, where he resides.

Mathilde Schennen-director

Mathilde Schennen is a Belgian actor/director. She studied Dramatic Arts at the Royal Conservatory of Mons, the Studio Herman Teirlinck and the Lee Strasberg Film and Theatre Institute, NYC. Recent acting credits include Tropes (CATCH/Coil, Invisible dogs); Voix de Femmes (United-Nations, tour in Switzerland and Guadeloupe) and Folie Pure (Theatre for the New City). Recent directing credits include Diary of Madman (UNDER St Marks, Festival Fringe of Edinburgh and a tour in Switzerland) ; White Sky Black Sky (TheaterLab); His Majesty the Devil (59E59 Theaters, Festival Fringe of Edinburgh, Fringe NYC Festival) and Waiting for Godot (Kraine Theatre). Mathilde is an alumni of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab 2013 and the DirectorsLabChicago 2014.

